



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

APR - 3 2009

David Cottingham, Chief  
Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Conservation Division  
Office of Protected Resources  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
1315 East-West Highway  
Silver Springs, Maryland 20910

OFFICE OF  
ENFORCEMENT AND  
COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

Dear Mr. Cottingham:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (FPEIS) for the Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program (CEQ No. 20090059) in accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

The FPEIS evaluates the effects from the Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program's stranding response operations, the issuance of the *Policies and Best Practices for Marine Mammal Stranding Response, Rehabilitation, and Release* document, and future biomonitoring and research activities. Based on our review of the FPEIS, we have no objections to the proposed action; thus, we are rating the document LO- Lack of Objections.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this FPEIS. The staff contact for this review is Aimee Hessert and she can be reached at (202) 564-0993.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Susan E. Bromm", followed by a horizontal line.

Susan E. Bromm  
Director  
Office of Federal Activities

cc: Steve Kokkinakis, NOAA NEPA Coordination and Compliance